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Public Building Needs.
While the State-Justice appropriations bill was under discussion Wednesday in the Senate the fact developed that the owners of the Department of Justice building have demanded an increase in rent from \$36,000 a year to a square-foot rate working out to over \$300,000. It is not proposed to pay this larger sum, but an item of \$75,000 was written into the bill for rent and Senator Smoot explained that it is hoped soon to move the department out of the rented quarters into one of the government-owned "temporary" buildings on Potomac Park.
In the debate on this subject it was disclosed that an effort is now being made to squeeze into these two "temporary" buildings every possible government employee now housed in rented structures. The Public Buildings Commission will then make a report to show what space will be required. As the chairman of the commission told the Senate in debate, "We are going to tell Congress how much money we have saved in leases by making these moves, and just what space we have got to provide in order to erect new buildings to care for all of the employees in the District of Columbia."

This would seem to suggest that it is the present purpose of the Public Buildings Commission to proceed with new building provisions on the basis of the already existing permanent and "temporary" buildings in Potomac Park. In other words, it seems to be taken for granted that these two buildings in the park will remain indefinitely. This is not at all in accordance with the understanding upon which the park space was used in the war-time emergency for public building purposes. It was clearly understood that all of these structures would be razed as soon as the emergency had passed. Those in the mid-Mall sections are now being removed. Those in Potomac Park, however, remain and are being packed with clerks and will doubtless be kept in service as long as possible.

Considering the Treasury condition of today as merely a passing condition of the economy, it is the poorest business practice for the government to continue to pay rent for privately owned public offices and to continue to jam its clerks into inadequate spaces in poorly located buildings that must eventually, whatever the present needs, be replaced by permanent structures. It takes several years to proceed from site selection to building completion and occupation. If authorization were given now by act of Congress for the erection of four new department offices—no less would meet the urgent needs of the government—it would be close upon 1930 before all were finished, and by that time surely the United States will be in a financial position to make payments upon its absolute business requirements. Let a start be made now, therefore, to end the unsatisfactory condition brought on in the discussion of the Justice Department's increased rent.

America.
Some surprise is expressed at the keen interest taken in the interior of the country in the merchant marine question.
Why should not the interior be interested? The question is not of concern only to the seaboard. The interior sells abroad, and wants good terms in the way of freight rates.
The interior is patriotic, and appreciates the value of a merchant marine as a naval auxiliary in times of war. It wants the country to be strong on the water in any emergency that may arise.
The interior takes pride in all American enterprises and institutions, and as much as the seaboard, is intrigued by the proposition to show the Stars and Stripes again in every port of importance in the world at the masthead of merchant ships. It remembers, as the seaboard does, the record made prior to the civil war when America was an ocean carrier of distinction; and it wants that distinction resumed.
America is American through and through. The seaboard's interests are the interior's interests. Hence, a policy conceived in the interests of all appeals to all. That explains America, and gives us our standing among the nations.
While this spirit survives America will survive. It seems strong today. The world war has shown the value of our institutions, and made all men and women who are worthy to live under them anxious to see them preserved and strengthened in every way.

Crimes Against Property.
In the so-called crime waves from which many American cities are now suffering, with New York naturally leading the list, offenses against property are in the majority by a large margin. This was illustrated yesterday in New York, when thirty-eight entered pleas of guilty to crime. Of these, four were accused of robbery, thirteen of burglary, eight of unlawful entry, six of larceny and two of forgery, or thirty-three out of the thirty-

eight. While this percentage may not be maintained uniformly, it is a fair indication of the tendency of those who break the laws.
Hold-ups and burglaries are not necessarily symptoms of bad economic conditions. To a certain extent, to be sure, the ranks of the footpads and highwaymen and thieves are swelled at periods of unusual unemployment, but taken generally a crime wave is to be interpreted as a low state of public morals rather than a high range of idleness.
Most of those who are arrested for burglaries and other forms of crime against property are young men, abetted as a rule, capable of doing honest, hard work, but preferring the "easier way" of earning a living. It is only the exceptional man who goes in for thievery for maintenance in lack of other means. And, furthermore, it is the exceptional thief who honestly justifies himself on the score that "the world owes him a living," and that he is warranted in trying to get the property of others. There is no principle about theft. It is just a matter of evil suggestion, low association and opportunity. Every city has its large quota of potential crooks and thieves—youthful, not idle from necessity in the main, but from choice, who hang around resorts of questionable patronage, who are attracted by the bright lights of the underworld. From them the professional thieves recruit their ranks.
Practically all burglars, all hold-up men and most sneak thieves are gun carriers. They are potential slayers. A large percentage of homicides are due to this fact. Now and then the exceptional thief is found who never carries a gun, who trusts entirely to his wits to make his escape if cornered. But he suffers with others under the suspicion of being ready to shoot if molested. It is this fact that the burglar is almost invariably armed that some years ago caused a demand, expressed in many communities, that the crime of burglary be declared capital, that the man who enters residential premises for purposes of thievery should be considered a possible slayer and punished accordingly. This, however, has not been done, and the penalties for burglary are, as a rule, comparatively light.

Russia, the Unguessable.
In exchange for recognition as the de jure government of Russia, and for "adequate" financial help, the soviet autocrats in Moscow are willing to "admit" Russia's war and pre-war debts, to waive their counter claims against other European nations and to restore nationalized property to its former owners or to indemnify them in cases where restoration is impossible.
On its face that is a wide and sweeping concession for the soviet to make. It may mean a very great deal in the equation of European restoration, or it may mean nothing much at all, depending upon the interpretations to be placed upon the words they use and the amount of confidence which may be reposed in the good faith and honest intentions of Lenin and Chicherin and Krassin and others of the bolshevik crew. An American who would be willing to do business with Russia on that basis would be entitled to rank with the inveterate gambler who knew the faro bank he played was crooked, but played it because it was the only one in town.
What does the soviet government mean by "admit" the Russian war and pre-war debts? To admit a debt and to make an honest effort to pay it are quite different things. How much satisfaction would the thrifty French peasants who invested their hard-earned francs in czarist bonds get out of an admission that Russia owed them money if Russia had neither the means nor the will to pay? And what would Moscow regard as "adequate" financial help? It would take a great deal more money than is represented by the war and pre-war debts they are willing to "admit" to repair the damage Lenin and his associates have done to Russia. Can they be so unsophisticated as to think that America and England and the few other countries which have money would be childish enough to lend them enormous sums with no better security than the faith of a government which brazenly proclaims that it is under no obligation to keep faith with other governments or with "capitalism"?
Only a few hours before Chicherin, head of the Russian delegation in the Genoa conference, delivered his bewildering reply to the Russian proposals of the allied experts, Leonid Krassin, soviet trade expert and a member of the conference delegation, told the commission on economics at Genoa that it was neither possible nor desirable to restore liberty of trade in Russia, and that the idea of complete socialization of the means of production and exchange had by no means been abandoned. In other words, there will be no resources in Russia which will not be under complete control of the state, and, therefore, no security to offer for the loans which are demanded by the creditors of the state. And the state will "admit" loans or repudiate them, depending upon which course offers the greater political or other advantage.

Big Radio.
A radio operator announces from Peoria, Ill., that he has discovered the source of the illumination of the lightning bulb. Simultaneously an experimenter at Harrisburg announces the discovery through experiments that cockroaches are equipped with radio, with a wave length of from one-half to an inch. At the same time a Princeton science professor states the result of eight years' study of the luminous principle of fireflies and other creatures. The light-producing substance, he says, is called luciferin, which is a protein that has now been isolated. This is undoubtedly the so-called phosphorescence which is to be observed in tropical waters. Whether there is any relationship between the luciferin of the glowworm as found at Princeton or the radio of the same creature as

found at Peoria remains for further research. The term "radio" is being rather loosely applied nowadays in pseudo-science. Almost anything that is not perfectly clear is attributed to "radio." It used to be "electrons" on which students relied to bridge gaps between the known and the unknown. As for the cockroach radio, housewives will not be disposed to become much concerned over the announcement that the miserable pests that infest their kitchens and cellars can communicate. What they want is a sure-shot exterminator. Maybe the Harrisburg man can put his radio hypothesis to good use by finding some means of interrupting the cockroach's signals and rendering him more subject to discouragement.

Harmony.
The Illinois republicans did the wise and timely thing yesterday. They put factionism behind them, at least for the present, and ranged themselves solidly in support of the President and his administration.
There have been some lively republican shindies in that state in the past few years. More than once republican supremacy has been threatened. This war, however, with factionism eliminated, the republicans should win with ease, and make a substantial contribution to the party's membership in the next Congress.
And, speaking of Congress, why should not this Illinois example be copied on Capitol Hill? There is far and away too much factionism on that elevation. It has been delaying action on measures of the highest and most pressing importance. It has been snarling up a situation which needed nothing at the outset to make it difficult, and it has probably given the President many an uncomfortable quarter of an hour.
The way to get together is to get together. Campaign time is coming with the speed of a race horse; and surely when the ball opens the republicans will need to be in the best kelter possible.

The democrats are cocky, and being cheered on by Mr. Wilson, who, without the cares of office, is giving much time to the situation in the country. He thinks he sees a revival of democratic power, and is bidding his brethren to go to it. Every few days a note or letter from him to some local leader finds its way into print in which democratic success is predicted.
The republicans need the next Congress in their business, but in order to get it they must fight as unitedly as possible.

There is never any telling when government service will be inspected for the discovery of talent that can be dispensed with. One of the most alluring, yet undesirable, things in the world is a sinecure.
The ill feeling developed in the University of California by a beauty contest would have been avoided if the authorities had made it a contest in trigonometry or Greek prose.

Sedate educators who champion the flapper evidently think it is better for a young woman to go to school with rouge and bobbed hair than not to go to school at all.
There is no escaping the belief that there were, in connection with the Genoa conference, some interesting preliminary group discussions which were not made public.

The situation was expected to improve in Ireland, but reports that leaders were tarred and feathered indicate that the improvement is slow.
In his spiritistic revelations, Conan Doyle is at least more modern than the demonstrators who introduced badly played guitars and tambourines.

Germany and Russia see no special pleasure in the prospect of trying to borrow money from each other.
The Genoa conference gives promise of being one of a long and interesting series.

SHOOTING STARS.
BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.
The Neglected Performer.
The man who goes his dutiful way And toils in peace from day to day— Oh, how we wish all men would be. Like him, from wicked impulse free.

Yet who of us would pay to go? And see this good man in a show? We'd rather see the villain rash Who steals the girl and grabs the cash. The burglar with a jimmy neat, The gunman prowling through the street— We pay our money to behold Their deeds so criminally bold.

Now, let us give three feeble cheers For honest men, the good old dears. We love them as they keep the laws. But give them very faint applause.
Pointing a Moral.
"Do you tell your constituents to be good and they'll be happy?"
"Not exactly," replied Senator Norrington. "I try to keep them impressed with the idea that their only chance of happiness depends on re-electing me."

Jud Tuppens says that while one group of men is patiently cranking up peace another is always trying to equip war with a self-starter.
Educational Benefit.
The foreign lecturers draw near To charm us and to be forgot. They don't say much we need to hear. But very often learn a lot.

The Difference.
"I shall now eat a few thousand calories," said the man who was going to lunch.
"What's the difference between calories and plain old-fashioned food?"
"I don't know that there is any; except that the calories appear to have made the food cost a whole lot more."
"I allus kin figger out whut hoss ought to win," said Uncle Eben. "But when a hoss gets on da race track he don't seem to hab no sense of obligation."

Movement to Re-Erect Statue of Lincoln Is Given Impetus

THE movement to re-erect upon its original site the statue of Abraham Lincoln which for more than half a century prior to 1920 stood before the District courthouse received a strong forward impetus upon the occasion of Representative King's recent address on the subject before the House. Speaking to the House joint resolution authorizing and directing the replacement of the statue, the eloquent member from Illinois rehearsed for the benefit of his colleagues the history of the "first monument to the memory of Abraham Lincoln" from the date of its unveiling on April 15, 1868, to the time when it was removed in 1920. The "figure was lowered, to begeth with its pedestal and the stones supporting it, and the statue was placed in the hands of the people, and all together rolled away as backyard rubbish."

Recalling the fact that the monument was paid for out of the purses of citizens of Washington, "who had long suffered the privations of the war, and by soldiers and sailors passing through the city," Representative King charged those "who reached up their long arms to pull it down" with trespass as well as iconoclasm. Pointing out that "perpetual easement" had been granted to the monument association for the location of the statue, he recalled the interesting anecdote concerning the true story of why Flannery, the sculptor of the monument, knew and loved upon so high a pedestal. Flannery, being sick and faint upon a cart, upon being questioned upon the subject by a reporter of the Baltimore Sun, is reported to have slowly and painfully raised himself upon his elbow and to have said: "Young man, on the evening of April 14, 1865, I was occupying a seat in Ford's Theater. Arriving early, I witnessed the President and his cabinet in and out of the upper right-hand box amid the cheers of the audience. A number of times I observed the President's face as he sat at the side of the box nearest the audience. Suddenly, while engrossed with the lines of the single actor then occupying the stage and in the middle of the second scene of the third act, a pistol was fired. I looked at the President's box. His head had fallen forward. He had been hit. Instantly the figure of a man

EDITORIAL DIGEST

Barring Professionalism From College Sports.

Such worrisome problems as subsidies, control of fighting forces and housecleaning "for the good of the service" rise up to vex other high-power intellects beside those on Capitol Hill. In slightly different guise they are stalking collegiate halls, where "sporting men" of athletic associations, wealthy alumni organizations and high-salaried coaches have struck fire from college presidents. In consequence they have declared a policy of self-determination which proposes to establish whether athletics are maintained for the college or the college for athletics. Princeton started the rumormongering "without stigma" eighteen athletic giants, including the captain of the football team, who were found to have been "subsidized" by wealthy alumni and their prowess on diamond and gridiron. So far as the barred men themselves are concerned, while the action of the college cannot be unpleasant, it must be emphasized, the Flint (Mich.) Tribune insists, that there is no implication of dishonor. In the sake of better sportsmanship in the university it was deemed best to eliminate the inducement of financial compensation for their participation in the knowledge that it is in the interest of the university.

The shadow of professionalism over college sports "is really a matter for which the alumni are responsible," the Albany (N. Y.) Knickerbocker Press declares, for, as the New York Herald puts it, "when an old grad picks a student to send to the alma mater he picks him rather for breadth of shoulder than breadth of forehead. Sending a mediocre student to the dear old college will not bring any great glory to the alma mater, but a good drop kicker and line plunger certainly will." Hence, the Herald explains, "the alumni recruit brawn rather than brain." And from the viewpoint of the "grad" it is the natural thing to do, the Boston Globe contends, for "since he graduated he has lost touch with the intellectual and educational ends of the institution; he is now in business and was never very much interested in highbrow things anyway. So when he decides to do something for the college he does things to help her sports, which, translated into American, means to help her win games."

However, while "brilliant students are subsidized in almost every university the country over," the Boston Herald finds a "delicate problem" in determining just how much or how little aid may be sent to ease the way through college of a man who needs financial help, whose athletic prowess and record are such that he maintains good standards of conduct. At bottom, the Herald thinks, "the whole issue turns on a reasonable interpretation of the term 'amateur.' But when the subsidizing goes to the extent of 'buying athletes' editorial opinion holds that the line between amateur and professional has been crossed and the practice lays open the charge of professionalism. Such college teams as include men who are subsidized solely for their physical skill. The action of the Princeton faculty, supported by Yale and Harvard, 'should have a considerable effect,' the Brooklyn Eagle believes, 'in ridding college sports of the taint of professionalism.'"

"Commercialism and professionalism cannot be separated," the Columbia (S. C.) State declares, and intercollegiate athletics are reaching a crisis, which, according to the Beacon-News, "will determine whether they shall become commercialized gladiatorial combats or organized as an integral part of a student's collegiate education." And while Harvard, Yale and Princeton are taking the view of the problem, the small New England colleges, the Springfield Republican tells us, "have taken steps to meet the situation. This refers to the movement by the presidents of eleven of the smaller colleges to put a stop to the practice of employing seasonal coaches at enormous salaries by employing a coach as a member of the faculty, paid by the college and recruited by the college, and 'selected in the same way as other members of the faculty.'"

This presages a movement to take control of athletics entirely out of the hands of alumni and athletic associations, which the Indianapolis Star thinks "will meet with decided opposition in alumni circles." But since the abuses have been largely "the fault of the coaches and alumni athletic councils," the Bangor (Me.) Commercial regards this new step as "one in the right direction." The way to eradicate commercialism from college athletics, "in the formula of the New York World, 'is to eradicate it and putting college sports wholly under faculty control' is the promising beginning." At least, the New York Herald thinks, "it should end the ridiculous practice of hiring professional athletes at salaries higher than the college presidents receive."

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